

Application Number 09/553,738
Responsive to Office Action mailed February 13, 2006

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated February 13, 2006. Applicant has amended claims 14 and 24 and canceled claims 15, 16, 25, 26 and 31. Applicant has also added new claims 32-34. Claims 14, 17, 19-22, 24, 30 and 32-34 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 16 and 26 as including subject matter that would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In this amendment, Applicant has amended independent claims 14 and 24 to recite the subject matter previously recited by claims 16 and 26, including all elements of the base claims and any intervening claims. Consequently, claims 14, 17, 19-22, 24 and 30 are in condition for allowance.

New Claims

Applicant has added claims 32-34 to the pending application. The applied references fail to disclose or suggest the inventions defined by Applicant's new claims, and provide no teaching that would have suggested the desirability of modification to arrive at the claimed inventions. As one example, the references fail to disclose or suggest a wire enclosed in a bendable portion of the cannula and bonded at a distal end of the wire to the cannula and a wire actuation mechanism to adjust a longitudinal position of the wire relative to the cannula, wherein longitudinal position adjustment of the wire changes the curvature of the bendable portion of the cannula, as recited by independent claim 32.

No new matter has been added by the new claims. For example, support for new claims 32-34 may be found from page 16, lines 10-19, from page 20, lines 3-21 and from FIGS. 1-5, 9 and 13.

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CONCLUSION

All claims in this application are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims. Applicant does not acquiesce with any of the Examiner's current rejections or characterizations of the prior art, and reserves the right to further address such rejections and/or characterizations. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to deposit account number 50-1778. The Examiner is invited to telephone the below-signed attorney to discuss this application.

Date:

May 12, 2006

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